

"He kept insisting that the Japanese must not be kept out save as we keep out Europeans. I kept explaining to him that what we had to do was to face facts; that if American laboring men came in and cut down the wages of Japanese laboring men they would be shut out of Japaxx in one moment; and that Japanese laborers must be excluded from the United States on economic grounds I told him emphatically that it was not possible to admit Japanese laborers into the United States, I pointed out to him those rules which Secretary Wilson quoted in Inn memorandum, which show that the Japanese (Government has already in force restrictions against American laborers coming into Japan, save in the old treaty ports. I pointed out that under our present treaty we had explicitly reserved the right to exclude Japanese laborers. I talked freely of the intended trip of the battleship fleet through the Pacific, mentioning that it would return home very shortly after it had been sent out there; at least in all probability. I also was most complimentary about Japan, and repeated at length the arguments that I had written to Takahira and Kaneko. How much impression I made upon him I can not say.¹¹

The California controversy was at its height in the summer of 1907, and sensational newspapers in the United States and Japan were vying with each other in inflammatory utterances calculated to promote ill-feeling between the two nations. The President had unhesitatingly taken

action in behalf of the Japanese in the controversy. In view of the hostile utterances of the Japanese press he deemed it well, as he stated to me subsequently, that the Japanese people should not think that his action had been taken in fear of Japan, and he accordingly decided to Band the battle fleet into the Pacific and around the world to show that the United States earnestly desired peace, but was not in the least afraid of war. "This demonstration," he said to me, "of combined courtesy and strength nowhere received a heartier response than in Japan, which IB itself both Htrong and courteous. No English, German or other